

Appl. No.: 09/689,017
Amdt. Dated October 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 1, 2003

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-15 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,925) in view of Baker, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,243).

Moore discloses the following in column 12, lines 5-19:

"From this point forward, marked mailpieces can be identified and verified through the use of the field reader system 18. Typically, a plurality of field readers cooperate with a single host computer 14 and with the control computer 12, and are at locations remote from the host and control computers. It should be understood that the mailpieces can be marked directly, or that one or more fixtures can be marked and affixed permanently to the mailpieces. The mailpiece items are identified and verified by using a light of appropriate wavelength to illuminate the symbol on the items. The illuminated symbol is captured by the camera 29. The captured image is then transferred to the portable PC 22 where the data is enhanced (if necessary), compressed, and transmitted via a modem 26, cellular link, or satellite communication to the host computer 14."

Moore discloses the following in column 23, lines 32-42:

"After the mailpiece package module has received its indicia marking from the marker, the module is scanned by a reader to confirm a valid marking. A camera is positioned to verify that a readable print has been made and that the information conveying positions of the symbols are readable."

The camera is preferably a charge couple device (CCD) camera. It is a black and white television camera with a solid state image center. However, any detection means capable of capturing the image is envisioned by the present disclosure.

Appln. No.: 09/689,017
Amdt. Dated October 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 1, 2003

Moore discloses the following in column 11, line 63 - column 12, line 5:

"Once the print cycle begins, a CCD camera 28 mounted downstream from the printer in the marking process maintains a continuous validation that an appropriate indicia symbol is being printed onto the product. If the printed symbol is different from that provided by the marker CPU 27, an error signal is activated to alert the operator. At the conclusion of the marking cycle, the printer CPU uploads a print count to the host. The postal service or the vendor can conduct electronic audits of all host computers at any time."

Baker, et al. discloses the following in column 2, lines 6-13:

"In still another feature of the present invention, a barcode evaluation method for mail is provided which includes feeding an ail piece to an imaging devide (sic) for evaluation and generating an image of a barcode on the mail piece. A processor is used to evalate (sic) the image and identify a barcode defect. A defect state is determined. The evaluation results are printed with an image of the barcode and a marker indicating the determined defect state."

Neither Moore nor Baker, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates step b of claim 1 as amended, namely, detecting the changes in the error compensation marks in order to compensate for the defect of the symbology region to ensure that the symbology region is being interpreted correctly.

Appln. No.: 09/689,017
Amdt. Dated October 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 1, 2003

In view of the above, claims 1-15 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would the Examiner please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Reichman
Reg. No. 26,796
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000